hi/pd re McDonald

7/7/75

Dear Paul,

Thanks for the info on McDonald and Bantam in your 7/3.

If your source had any connection with McDonald when he was at World Associates let me know and I'll ask a few more questions.

To now Bantam has refused to even consider anything responsible on any aspect of the subject. It reprinted Frank's book, for example, when it was an established loser and contracted for it before publication when clearly it was a crappy ~~reprint~~ replay. It went for the Clay Blair rehash of what had been in the papers first and lost money on that. On the Ray case alone it also provided a vice president to be a State's witness in the evidentiary hearing and to give deceptive testimony seriously misused by the judge, too.

I have had a friend there for years. He has not been able to interest them in anything. I think their interest is improbable unless there is a prior major development. The decisions were made separately by the two top Bantam people.

I don't know who Irving Mansfield is. Agent?

I still have not received the copy back from Playboy. Everybody up to Hefner went for it, through the entire corporate bureaucracy. Bunny clubs and motels, too. So, aside from other disadvantages of unknown people reading a very long book of a kind in which most people will not have interest in some of the details made for other than literary purposes, there is the fact that I don't have a copy to send.

What I have done with others where length also is a problem is show some of the documents. They blow minds. This includes some of the staff of a House Member and more recently two members of the Church committee staff, just last week. They are coming back soon with the Senator who had them added to the staff. He knows me.

However, I'm not letting those documents out of my possession, nor copies other than those I have squirreled away for security (100% triplication).

As of now there remain three possible interest, where I've offered first serial rights for a 5,000 print. In each of the three cases there is editorial approval. Each will involve a policy decision. One is abroad.

It is possible that with a new printing process I can print the book for maybe half of normal (of the past) offset costs. Day after tomorrow the representative of one of those with this new process is to be here. Another is to make a date. I'll then have a better idea of costs. One immediate problem is whether the binding will hold on a book of this size.

This, of course, will not alter the basic problem of people rightfully wanting to know what they may be getting into. If anyone gets really serious the easiest and fastest way is for us to meet on it.

However, I remain astounded at the lack of business sense and instinct among those who are supposedly most expert. With investigations (official) in prospect and the TV nets doing specials there is no interest in basic rights to original work?

Actually, right now perhaps the best possibility is with an aggressive, imaginative agent who ought to see these things readily. But I have none and know none.

As soon as I clean up the immediate court needs I'll be back on Post Mortem. Had I not had other things to do I'd have begun editing the index before 5 a.m. After that is typed I'll be able to estimate the space it will require accurately enough to go to work on the appendix. I'm so sure the time has come and that this will happen I'm going to let other things slide for a while. When I can concentrate. This may be optimism but I know some footnoting at least is necessary and I'm going to get ready for what will be necessary if as I believe the time really has come.

Does Mac have a young woman on the side? Thanks, best and more later.